(b) if so, the details thereof; if not, whether a revised policy should proceed the proposed migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, there is a New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) in existence and there is no National Spectrum Policy-1999. An addendum to NTP-99 has been issued in November, 2003, to provide for the following categories of licences for the telecommunication services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all telecommunication/telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology;

(ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

Therefore, the Unified Licence Regime is in consonance with NTP-99.

Import duty on mobile phones

1726. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI propose to cut import duty on mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on its own has suggested that customs duty on the mobile phones may be reduced from 10% to 5% and also to abolish Special Additional Duty (SAD) of 4%. As a part of annual budget exercise, such suggestions are considered by the Government based on various factors i.e. availability of indigenous manufacturing, growth and affordability of telecom services and revenue implications, etc.